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To: Home Health Agencies

HHA 20

From: Rita Prigioni, Interim Director
Bureau of Quality Assurance

Outcome Assessment Information Set (OASIS) Update **Memo # 8**

ALERT: HCFA announces the mandatory use of OASIS

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information related to the federal Outcome Assessment Information Set (OASIS).

The federal Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) announced the effective date for the mandatory use, collection, encoding and transmission of OASIS data for all Medicare/Medicaid patients receiving skilled care from home health agencies in a *Federal Register* notice (*Volume 64, No. 117*) published June 18, 1999.

For non-Medicare/non-Medicaid patients receiving skilled services, there will be no encoding and transmission until further notice; however, home health agencies must conduct comprehensive assessments and updates at the required time points. For patients receiving personal care only services, regardless of payer source, HCFA has delayed the requirements regarding OASIS collection, encoding and transmission until further notice.

The *Federal Register* notice related to the use of OASIS begins on page 32984 and the System of Records (SOR) notice begins on page 32992. A copy of the OASIS and SOR regulations is attached.

Effective July 19, 1999, all home health agencies participating in the Medicare/Medicaid programs are required to initiate the use of the standardized assessment data set, OASIS, as summarized in the following chart:

Summary of Mandatory Collection, Encoding, and Transmission Dates for OASIS

Patient Classification	Collection Effective Date	Encoding Effective Date	Transmission Effective Date
Medicare ¹ /Medicaid ² – Skilled	July 19, 1999	July 19, 1999	August 24, 1999
Non-Medicare/Non-Medicaid ³ – Skilled	July 19, 1999	Spring 2000	Spring 2000 ⁴

Medicaid ⁵ – Personal Care Only	Spring 2000	Spring 2000	Spring 2000
Non-Medicaid ³ – Personal Care Only	Spring 2000	Spring 2000	Spring 2000 ⁴
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients under age 18; • Patients receiving pre & post partum maternity services; • Patients receiving only chore and housekeeping services 	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded

¹ OASIS item (M0150) Current Payment Sources for Home Care: response 1 or 2.

² OASIS item (M0150) Current Payment Sources for Home Care: response 3 or 4.

³ OASIS item (M0150) Current Payment Sources for Home Care: response 0, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or UK.

⁴ Data transmitted with masked identifiers.

⁵ OASIS item (M0150) Current Payment Sources for Home Care: response 3.

OASIS Implementation Manual Chapter 8 Revised

The OASIS Implementation Manual - Chapter 8, OASIS in Detail, has been revised. Changes have been made with regard to collecting and recording OASIS data in the context of the comprehensive assessment process, in particular for mental health assessments. These changes clarify the definitions, instructions, and assessment strategies for selected OASIS items. We have attached a copy of the pages that are new or that have content changes.

- Pages 8.2 and 8.3 have been modified to clarify the means of administering the OASIS items in the context of the comprehensive assessment.
- An introductory page (8.82) has been inserted into the item-by-item tips section regarding the assessment of mental and emotional status, to provide further clarification concerning observational and interview techniques that are effective in eliciting the needed information while minimizing burden and intrusion on the patient.
- Item-by-item tips have been changed for M0540 and M0560 through M0620. The purpose of these changes is to emphasize observational techniques and to provide further guidance for clinicians in assessing these characteristics especially in situations where patients refuse to answer direct questions.

Although the content changes are few, the page numbering has changed for most of the chapter. The Bureau of Quality Assurance will notify you if we become aware of further changes. All users of the OASIS data set and the OASIS Implementation Manual MUST upgrade to this version and implement these changes when completing the comprehensive assessment on or after July 19, 1999.

The Bureau of Quality Assurance will make the entire OASIS Implementation Manual available for purchase. If you are interested in purchasing a copy of the OASIS Implementation Manual, please contact Barb Carey at (608) 267-1446.

HCFA Web site

HCFA has posted the OASIS implementation timetable, manual revisions, federal regulations and other related information on their OASIS web site. Please note that the text version of the Federal Register on the HCFA web site does not contain Attachments A, B and C (privacy notices). Therefore, please retrieve the attachments using the (.pdf) version. The revised OASIS Implementation Manual, Chapter 8, OASIS in Detail, (chap-08.pdf-Adobe Acrobat format), is also available for downloading (148 pages) from the HCFA web site. Home health agencies are encouraged to consult the HCFA web site often. The web site address is:

<http://www.hcfa.gov/medicare/hsqb/oasis/oasis.hmp>

Timetable for OASIS Data Collection, Encoding and Transmission

Following is the new schedule for OASIS data collection, encoding and transmission:

- **June 18, 1999** - Federal Register publication date.
- **July 19, 1999** - OASIS data collection is required on all patients receiving skilled care. For new patients receiving skilled care admitted on or after July 19, 1999 a start of care assessment is required; for existing patients on service with a home health agency, the comprehensive assessment, including the OASIS data set, is required at the next assessment time point.
- **July 19, 1999** - Encoding of the OASIS data collection is required for Medicare or Medicaid patients receiving skilled care, beginning with the first required assessment conducted on or after this date.
- Through **August 18, 1999** - Home health agencies may send test file submissions (including production test files) to their respective states.
- **August 19, 1999 through August 23, 1999** - All data will be purged from the State's data management systems. (*NOTE: On page 32985 of the Federal Register, under the example in the middle column, an incorrect date of August 24 should be listed as August 23.*)

Any required assessments conducted on or after July 19, 1999 that are sent to the State prior to the transmission effective date will be purged from the database. Home health agencies are advised to begin submitting production OASIS data on or after August 24, 1999 to avoid having to re-transmit required production files.

- **August 24, 1999 through August 31, 1999** - Production file submission for all data collected, encoded, and locked July 19, 1999 through July 31, 1999 is required. (*NOTE: On page 32985 of the Federal Register, under the example in the middle column, an incorrect date of August 25 should be listed as August 24.*)
- **Monthly beginning September, 1999** - At least monthly, all data encoded and locked through the last day of the preceding month must be transmitted to the State system by the last day of the current month. Example: All assessments encoded and locked through August 31, 1999 must be sent to the State no later than September 30, 1999.

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- The OASIS Data Management System will have an additional edit added on August 24, 1999 that will reject all assessments with effective dates prior to July 19, 1999. Home health agencies will not need to submit any assessments with effective dates before July 19, 1999.

The Table Below Lists the Effective Date by Reason for Assessment Type:

Reason for Assessment Type	Effective Date
01 Start of Care with further visits planned	M0030 - Start of Care Date (SOC Date)
02 Start of Care with <u>no</u> further visits planned	M0030 - Start of Care Date (SOC Date)
03 Resumption of Care after an inpatient stay	M0032 - Resumption of Care Date (ROC Date)
04 Recertification assessment (Follow-up)	M0090 - Information Completed Date (Date assessment was completed)
05 Other Follow-up	M0090 - Information Completed Date (Date assessment was completed)
06 Transferred to an inpatient facility, but not discharged from the HHA	M0906 - DC/TRAN/DTH/DT (Discharge/Transfer/Death Date)
07 Transferred to an inpatient facility, discharged from the HHA	M0906 - DC/TRAN/DTH/DT (Discharge/Transfer/Death Date)
08 Death at home	M0906 - DC/TRAN/DTH/DT (Discharge/Transfer/Death Date)
09 Discharge from HHA - not to an inpatient facility	M0906 - DC/TRAN/DTH/DT (Discharge/Transfer/Death Date)
10 Discharge from HHA - not to an inpatient facility and no visits since Start of Care assessment	M0906 - DC/TRAN/DTH/DT (Discharge/Transfer/Death Date)

Please direct any questions you may have regarding OASIS data collection to Barbara Woodford, OASIS Educational Coordinator, at (608) 264-9896. Questions related to software and data transmission should be directed to Richard Betz, OASIS Automation Coordinator, at (608) 264-9898.

Attachments